

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 102671 TOSEC 040196
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-10 ICAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY PA:TRESTON:SAC
APPROVED BY PA:THOMAS RESTON
S/S-O:SVALERGA
-----006959 220142Z /73

O 220049Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 102671 TOSEC 040196

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. THE BRIEFING OF FRIDAY, APRIL 21, WAS ENTIRELY
DOMINATED BY THE SOUTH KOREAN PLANE INCIDENT IN THE NORTHERN
SOVIET UNION. THE SPOKESMAN READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

2. "THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION INFORMED THE STATE
DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, THAT THE KOREAN AIRLINER, A
BOEING 707, WAS OVERDUE AT ANCHORAGE ON A SCHEDULED FLIGHT
FROM PARIS TO TOKYO.

3. "AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 P.M. YESTERDAY EVENING INFORMA-
TION CONCERNING THE AIRLINER HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO ALL
NATIONS IN THE AREA OF THE GENERAL FLIGHT PATH OF THE
PLANE. THAT INFORMATION WAS TRANSMITTED THROUGH INTERNA-
TIONAL AVIATION CHANNELS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 102671 TOSEC 040196

4. "AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 P.M. LAST NIGHT, THE UNITED
STATES INFORMED THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, BOTH IN WASHINGTON
AND IN SEOUL OF ITS INTENTION TO OFFER EVERY POSSIBLE
ASSISTANCE.

5. "THROUGH RADAR TRACKING, OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THE

KOREAN AIRLINER WAS ON ITS SCHEDULED FLIGHT PATH UNTIL IT REACHED AN AREA NEAR THE NORTH POLE, AND THAT IS INDICATED ON THIS MAP BY A SOLID RED LINE --

6. "SOMEWHERE NEAR THE NORTH POLE, AND FOR REASONS THAT ARE STILL NOT KNOWN, THE AIRPLANE HEADED SOUTH OVER THE ARCTIC OCEAN AND THE BARENTS SEA, AND ENTERED SOVIET AIR SPACE NEAR MURMANSK.

7. "THE SOVIET UNION HAS INFORMED THE U.S. THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN SIGNALLED TO LAND, BUT TOOK "EVASIVE ACTION" AND THEREFORE, THAT ITS LANDING HAD BEEN "ABNORMAL."

8. "OUR INFORMATION IS VERY FRAGMENTARY REGARDING WHAT OCCURRED.

9. "LET ME SAY FURTHER, I HAVE A LITTLE BIT MORE INFORMATION: OUR INFORMATION IS THAT TWO PEOPLE HAVE DIED. 13 WERE INJURED, BUT ONLY TWO WERE INJURED SERIOUSLY.

10. "THE AIRCRAFT, ACCORDING TO REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN, APPARENTLY LANDED NEAR THE TOWN OF KEM AND THAT TOWN IS LOCATED IN THE KARELIAN AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE SOVIET UNION."

11. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT "WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 102671 TOSEC 040196

POSSIBILITY THAT HOSTILE ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST THE AIRLINER, BUT I REALLY CAN'T GO FURTHER THAN THAT."

12. ASKED WHY THE UNITED STATES WAS TAKING A ROLE IN THIS MATTER, THE SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT SOUTH KOREA HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND THAT THE KOREANS HAD ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE.

13. THE SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO A TASS ARTICLE WHICH INDICATED THAT PREPARATIONS WERE ALREADY UNDERWAY TO FACILITATE THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE PASSENGERS OUT OF THE USSR.

14. TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE STETSON PROVIDED THE OTHER MAJOR TOPIC FOR THE BRIEFING. SECRETARY STETSON HAD IMPLIED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARING TO SELL MORE F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA. SPOKESMAN SAID "LET ME SAY WITH REGARD TO THAT STORY THAT THE SAUDI ARABIAN REQUEST IS FOR 60 AIRCRAFT.

15. "THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE THIS QUANTITY WAS MADE AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE SALE. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SAUDI PLANNING TO

ACQUIRE ADVANCED AIRCRAFT BEYOND THE 60, F-15S AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

16. "WE RECOGNIZE SAUDI ARABIA'S NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SELF-DEFENSE FOR ITSELF. THIS SALE AIMS AT HELPING PROVIDE THIS NEEDED SECURITY BUT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO PROVIDE ANYTHING BEYOND THE 60 F-15S."

17. SECRETARY STETSON ALSO STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD A TACIT OBLIGATION TO COME TO IRAN'S DEFENSE IN CASE OF HOSTILITIES. SPOKESMAN SAID "THE U.S.-IRANIAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION OF MARCH 5, 1959, SAYS IN ARTICLE 1: 'IN CASE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 102671 TOSEC 040196

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WILL TAKE SUCH APPROPRIATE ACTION INCLUDING THE USE OF ARMED FORCES, AS MAY BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON.'

18. "WE HAVE A DEEP INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION."

19. "WE HAVE A DEEP INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION, INCLUDING IRAN AND THE OTHER LITERAL STATES. WE HAVE, OVER THE YEARS ASSISTED SOME OF THEM IN DEVELOPING THEIR SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITIES WHICH SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND OURS AS WELL.

20. "I THINK THE WORDS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE EXPLICIT."

21. SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY THAT DAYAN WOULD BE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES APRIL 26-27 FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE102671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRESTON:SAC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780171-1048
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780428/aaaaaxhg.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 211654a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2881206
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/211654a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014